Contractors under the Production Sharing Contracts for exploration blocks and discovered fields. Customs duty is a dynamic factor and its impact on ONGC's costing cannot be assessed in advance. The operating cost of producing crude oil and natural gas by Indian companies, including ONGC, is comparable with international costs in this regard.

Checking of adulteration in petrol

4336. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to standardize the specification of petrol in petrol pumps to check adulteration;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in the matter; and

(c) the views of the automobile industry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Indian Standards for petrol as prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is given in IS-2796:2000 that has been adopted in MS/HSD Control Order to ensure the quality of petrol supplied to retail outlets. For petrol, the BIS specifications are similar to the National Standards of USA and European Union including the test procedure. These testing procedures are updated and aligned with international procedures from time to time.

Completion of Paradeep Refinery

4337. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation proposes to issue bonds in favour of Orissa Government for completion of Paradeep Refinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a part of the incentive package agreed between IOCL and the State Government, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) proposes to issue bonds for a period of 11 years from the date of commercial production in favour of Orissa Government with seven year maturity period having 5% coupon rate yielding regular return in lieu of the Orissa sales tax payable.

(c) IOCL is presently reviewing the completion schedules of the project in the light of the changed demand and supply projections of petroleum products in the country.

Crude price at the time of hike in petroleum prices

†4338. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had increased the prices of petrol, diesel, LPG and kerosene oil in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the dates on which the increase in the prices of said items has been made during the period from March, 1999 to March, 2000 and to what extent the same have been increased in each case; and

(c) what was the rate of crude oil in international market every time the prices were increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The changes in the ex-storage point price of diesel, petrol, domestic LPG and PDS kerosene during the year 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are given at Statement (*See* below).

(c) The price of Indian basket of crude oil was $15.46 per barrel on 20-4-1999, $22.51 per barrel on 16-10-1999, $24.69 per barrel on 23-3-2000, $28.72 per barrel on 29-9-2000 and $21.15 per barrel on 1-3-2002.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.